

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02301 020636Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 020041Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3026

S E C R E T OTTAWA 02301

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 67973

1. AS EXPECTED, CANADA WARMLY WELCOMES POLICY DECISIONS OUTLINED REFTEL.
2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON TOLD ME ON APRIL 1 THAT U.S. DECISION TO DEFER REPROCESSING OF PLUTONIUM PARTICULARLY WELCOME AT THIS POINT BECAUSE IT BACKS CANADA UP ON MOST DIFFICULT OF ISSUES CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, I.E. CANADIAN DESIRE TO IMPOSE VETO ON REPROCESSING OF CANADIAN-SUPPLIED FUEL.
3. JAMIESON NOTED THAT POLICY STATEMENT DID NOT ADDRESS QUESTION OF FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AND NPT ADHERENCE AS CONDITION FOR ANY NUCLEAR TRANSACTIONS. CANADA CLEARLY HOPES U.S. WILL ADOPT CANADIAN POSITION ON THESE ISSUES AS SWEDEN NOW HAS. EVEN IF U.S. DOES NOT, JAMIESON SAID, CANADA INTENDS TO HOLD TO ITS PRESENT POSITION INDEFINITELY. SO FAR, COMMERCIAL PRESSURES ON GOC HAVE NOT BEEN GREAT, DUE IN CONSIDERABLE PART TO FACT THAT JAPANESE HAVE CONTINUED TO PAY FOR URANIUM THEY HAVE ON ORDER, DESPITE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02301 020636Z

THEIR INABILITY TO SHIP.

4. CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO ANALYZE FULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW U.S. POLICY FOR URANIUM MARKET AND ADEQUACY OF FUTURE URANIUM SUPPLIES. THERE ARE BOTH OPTIMISTIC AND PESSIMISTIC SCHOOLS AMONG THE EXPERTS. OFFICIALS DO ASK WHETHER DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING MAY NOT

IMPLY A NEED TO IDENTIFY URANIUM SOURCING FOR 30 OR 40 YEARS, OR FAR MORE THAN NORMAL IN MINING OPERATIONS.

5. JAMIESON NOTED THAT CANADA IS DOING SOME WORK ON ALTERNATIVE FUEL CYCLES, AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE PROMISING AREA FOR ENHANCING BILATERAL COOPERATION. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, POLICIES, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA02301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850056-1935, N770002-0395
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770496/aaaadfht.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9878bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 67973
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2920495
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, MNUC, US, CA, (JAMIESON, DONALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9878bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009